

## Dallas wonders if fiery objects in sky turned on air raid sirens

By DWIGHT SILVERMAN  
Houston Chronicle

Why, emergency management officials want to know, did Dallas civil defense sirens switch themselves on for no apparent reason?

Did it have something to do with the fiery objects that fell from the skies between Northeast Texas and central Oklahoma hours earlier?

Dallas residents were jolted from peaceful slumber at 1:45 a.m. Thursday when about 10 air raid sirens on the northeast and southeast sides of town began wailing. Normally, the sirens can be turned on from only two locations — the police communications center and the office of Robert Martinez, assistant director for the city's Office of Emergency Preparedness.

No one at the Dallas Police Department admits turning them on. No one was in Martinez's office at the time.

Not only did computers used to monitor the alarm system not record how the sirens were activated,

they also did not indicate the sirens were ever on.

The system had been tested 12 hours before and supposedly was in perfect condition.

"The sirens continued to sound for about 45 minutes to an hour," Martinez said, adding attempts to shut off the individual units were fruitless. "This office initiated an immediate deactivation of the entire system."

So far, there is no official reason for the mysterious activation, Martinez said, though he suspects it had something to do with fireballs and blazing debris that rained over the region that same night.

Beginning late Wednesday night, authorities from north of Waco to east of Oklahoma City began receiving reports from people seeing strange things falling from the sky.

■ The Texas Department of Public Safety in Austin received notification about 11:30 p.m. Wednesday from the National Warning Center — the branch of the Federal Emergency Management Agency that watches the skies over America — that there was a "hot spot" or

ground fire near Longview and flaming debris falling from the sky. No fire was discovered.

■ A jogger running through a Dallas suburb reported to police he saw a fireball blazing across the sky from the northeast to the southwest.

■ A fisherman relaxing on Lake Whitney near Waco called the National Weather Service to report debris falling all around him.

Martinez wondered whether the falling debris — be it from a satellite plunging from orbit or a meteor breaking up in the atmosphere — could have generated enough radio waves to set off the sirens, which are triggered by a radio signal.

Dr. Alex Storrs, a University of Texas at Austin astronomer, said it would be unlikely that falling debris would generate enough radio energy to activate the sirens.

"They would almost have to hit the sirens to do it," he said.

The Associated Press contributed to this story.

★ The Houston Post/Thursday, March 21, 1991/ A-3

### OFF THE WALL

**THE ARE-YOU-KIDDING NEWS:** Passengers on a Chinese domestic flight were treated to an unusually hair-raising flight earlier this week when their plane chased a UFO for nine minutes over Shanghai. The oval, unidentified flying object, which was larger than the aircraft, flew above Shanghai's Hongqiao Airport before it turned suddenly, rushed toward the plane and disappeared above it.

★★ The Houston Post/Sunday, April 7, 1991/ A-3

### OFF THE WALL

**THE ARE-YOU-KIDDING NEWS:** Abductions by aliens isn't on the agenda for a lot of conventions, but it's very much a concern for delegates at the third annual Ozark UFO Conference in Eureka Springs, Ark. About 400 UFO experts from across the country were expected to attend this weekend. Some of the other topics on the agenda are animal mutilations and crop circles.

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8B

★★★

Houston Chronicle

## Soviet rocket body streaks through sky

By JERRY URBAN  
Houston Chronicle

The "white streak with sparks out of the back" seen in the sky by many Houstonians early Sunday was a Soviet rocket launch booster, said a U.S. Space Command spokesman in Colorado Springs, Colo.

David Griffard said the booster or body of the rocket was seen about 12:45 a.m. CST in Texas, Colorado, Oklahoma and Kansas. There were no reports of debris striking Earth, he said.

Griffard, citing national security policies, refused to tell the Soviet launch the rocket body came from.

Rocket bodies are used to launch satellites as well as men into space.

Two cosmonauts and a Japanese television reporter blasted into space Dec. 2 aboard a Soyuz rocket and linked up with the Mir space station.

James Oberg of Dickinson, an expert on Soviet space programs, said he did not know the source of the rocket body.

"As the Soviets move toward glasnost, our own military space people are going the opposite direction," said Oberg. "They're clamming up on stuff they used to release and they're not telling anything, even about the Russians." The sighting was unusual because rocket bodies are traveling about 18,000 mph and do not survive re-entry into Earth's atmosphere, Griffard said.

"They (the Soviets) use these launch boosters just like we do (to get payloads or crew capsules into orbit)," he said. "This one, when the fuel was expended it

## Just an unidentified flaring object?

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Hundreds of Houston-area residents were alarmed Tuesday night when a smokestack apparently flaring natural gas in southeast Harris County was mistaken for an unidentified flying object, an Ellington Field official said.

Houston news media outlets and

law enforcement officials were flooded with calls regarding the mysterious sight beginning around 7 p.m.

The exact location of the smokestack was unknown, but the Ellington Field official said to the best of his knowledge, the structure was the object causing the streaking orange phenomenon Tuesday night.

## Plant causes 'glow' in sky

A vertical, bright orange light illuminated the area sky Tuesday night, and area residents from Missouri City to Dickinson wondered what it was.

The "pink glow in the sky" was believed to be flares from a chemical plant reflecting on low-lying clouds.

The illuminated flares appeared to be coming from Quantum Chemical at 11603 Strang Road in Deer Park.

In a telephone recording, Quantum said it was starting up a plant and would be using its five flares. The recording said the emissions from the flares may be very large and a nuisance to plant neighbors.

To the Editor  
Gulf Breeze Sentinel  
Gulf Breeze, FL.

Sir:

As an after thought, prior to leaving my home in Corinth, MS., for a week's get-away in Ft. Walton Beach, I picked up my copy of Ed & Frances Walters' *The Gulf Breeze Sightings*. I had the vague thought of perhaps visiting Gulf Breeze and getting the authors' autograph. Little did I imagine that I would be put in touch with the local MUFON group and find myself on Sat. night, Feb. 23, 1991 and again Tues. night, Feb. 26, 1991 with said group searching the skies over Pensacola Bay and Santa Rosa Sound for UFOs.

On both these occasions, I can report having witnessed a very bright, seemingly stationary red light which neither arrived nor departed from the position observed which appeared to be over Santa Rosa Sound. This light simply appeared, remained for three to four minutes and then disappeared. On Sat. night, the initial sighting was of an extremely bright, white light which then turned red.

These are the first sightings I have had of truly "anomalous" lights in the night sky.

Houston Chronicle

Monday, Feb. 25, 1991

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## UFOs

Tass reported that the skies over Uzbekistan were teeming with flying saucers. The newspapers *Vecherny Tashkent* and *Molodezh Uzbekistana* reported a visit by alien robots in the town of Daugyztau, in central Kyzyl-Khem. Tass said the report could have been the result of local teenagers' rich imagination, but Soviet UFO experts said they found powerful magnetic fields in places pointed out by the children.

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